

SUBJECT : TOHIR , TOM

SOURCE : MARUNCHAK, Mykhaylo

PLACE : Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

TIME : June, 1961

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

1 July 1961

SUBJECT, a progressive from ^{DATE 1987}Winnipeg visited Ukraine in May, 1961. He was permitted to visit two raions and villages in these raions. He visited RADEKHIVSKYI and SOKALSKYI raions in Western Ukraine and the following villages: RADOVANTSI, YASTRUBYCHI, POZDYMYR, SILETS BELZKYI and PORKHACH. SUBJECT is 67 years old, but very well preserved. Has 2 sisters in the Soviet Union, one in the village of RADOVANTSI the other in SIBERIA, deported, because her sons were in the UPA.

SUBJECT GAVE the following information:

1. A cement plant has been constructed at the railroad station PORKHACH. 700 people work there, most of them women. Women earn 60 kopecs an hour, men 1 ruble. In the village of SILETS BELZKYI there are 7 coal mines and a saw mill.

2. During his stay in the area SUBJECT inquired about political life and the situation in the area. He was informed by the local people that mistakes have been made by the state. Nobody blamed the Ukrainian underground. While passing the so called BLACK FOREST near MOSTY, between SOKAL and LVIV, SUBJECT observed many uniformed military personnel with dogs. He asked the driver for the reasons and was informed by him in low voice that often "people disappear". For example he continued "yesterday 2 commissars disappeared". The driver added that when he talks to people in the area they will tell him more about it. SUBJECT also said that people in the area are dissatisfied with the US policy. The chairman of the ZABUZKYI RAION told him that "America has deceived them" and that "they will have to perish" (the people he meant). He also was interested in the Ukrainian emigration in Canada and in America.

3. In the village of SILETS BELZKYI SUBJECT visited ROYKO, Vasyl who

from 1939-1947 was leader of Ukrainian underground in the village (stanychnyi). In 1947 ROYKO was deported to Siberia to the TOMSK oblast and lived there for 12 years together with his family. In 1959 or 1960 he returned to his native village. ROYKO, Vasyl has a brother who lives in Winnipeg and is known as ROYKO-OSTAPENKO. While visiting with ROYKO, Vasyl SUBJECT went with him to ROYKO's son who also was in Siberia (Karavansk). While there and it was in the evening, 2 men from the underground came to the son's house. They extended greetings to ROYKO-OSTAPENKO in Winnipeg. They said that they have been in hiding since the war and that they know the "leaders of the revolution who are now in the emigration". They also wanted to give to SUBJECT clandestine literature for taking with him and giving it to ROYKO-OSTAPENKO in Winnipeg and he will know to whom to give it there. They said: "Take it to Canada so that the world should know how we live here". Subject, however, refused to take this literature with him, inspite of the fact that the men insisted. During this conversation with the underground men, ROYKO, Vasyl did not say one word. There are no seksoys in the area and no party members. Military are not being noticed in the villages, but they are in the forrests. Wives of KGB personnel live in the villages. Communists say, that they are not afraid of war, but they made indications that they are afraid of peril from within. People are very much dissatisfied of their kolkhoz labor and consider it as a new serfdom.

SUBJECT was very well treated everywhere in the villages. The people there were surprised that being 67 years of age he looked so well. They arranged parties for him and asked him to visit them. SUBJECT related to them information about the Ukrainian emigration in Winnipeg.

SUBJECT met his sister (69) in the village of RODOVANTSI. At that time she was carrying a sack with sand on her shoulders to repair the house where she lived. SUBJECT complained about this to the chairman of the kolkhoz while at a party and the kolkhoz chairman promised to repair the house for his sister. SUBJECT tried to get the release of his second sister still in Siberia. While in Lviv he intervened

with Soviet authorities ~~not~~ to get a permission to bring her to Lviv. The application was rejected. (This sister's sons were UPA members and there is no trace of them). However, SUBJECT received a permission to talk to his sister by telephone. Actually his sister did not talk, only cried all the time to the telephone.

In general and in addition what he witnessed himself, SUBJECT was told by the people in the area that there exists an underground in the villages. SUBJECT, himself a progressive complained about the kolkhoz system, about the low wages and about the Soviet system as the whole. He said that people say "it is going to become better".